

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A software-implemented method of configuring a computer to associate with a network through a wireless communication link, comprising:
 - creating a computer profile corresponding to a network having an Extended Service Set identifier, wherein the profile includes the identifier;
 - using the computer profile to cause the computer to recognize the network; and
 - creating a communication link between the computer and the network.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - using variable network parameters such as encryption key status, frequency, and power requirements to create the computer profile.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the software is integrated into the operating system of the computer.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising encrypting the data passing over the communication link between the computer and the network.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising programming the computer to contain multiple profiles to recognize and connect with multiple unrelated networks.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising creating additional profiles, each of the profiles corresponding to one of the multiple unrelated networks.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising at a supporting peripheral, associating each computer profile with a wireless network based on a priority value until there is a successful association or the list of profiles is exhausted.
8. The method of claim 7 further comprising incrementing a counter associated with the selected profile each time that profile is matched to a network.
9. The method of claim 8 utilizing the counter value to prioritize subsequent associations of computer profiles and wireless networks.

1 10. The method of claim 7 further comprising storing the name of a selected profile for
2 use by other programs.

1 11 A method of creating profiles for configuring a computer to connect to a wireless
2 network using a graphical user interface (GUI) comprising:
3 prompting the user to enter profile information associated with multiple networks
4 within a wireless network;
5 entering the profile information;
6 storing the profile information for later retrieval; and
7 configuring the computer to connect to a particular network based on a particular
8 profile.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the profile includes an Extended Service Set
2 Identifier corresponding to a particular network.

1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 providing the user with multiple graphical user interface (GUI) style screens, wherein
3 the screens allow the user to enter variable network parameters such as encryption
4 key status, frequency, and power requirements.

1 14. A method for enabling a mobile processor to connect to a plurality of networks,
2 comprising:
3 storing data representative of each network;
4 acquiring signals from each network which indicates the proximity of the proximity;
5 and
6 enabling a user to select a particular network from a plurality of networks.

1 15. An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable
2 instructions for configuring a computer with a network through a wireless communication
3 link, the instructions causing a computer to:
4 create a profile using a corresponding to a network having an Extended Service Set
5 identifier, wherein the profile includes the identifier, wherein the profile is created using a
6 graphical user interface;

7 use the computer profile to cause the adapter to recognize the network; and
8 create a communication link between the connector and the network.

1 16. A wireless network adapter, comprising:

2 an input device for receiving data;

3 a display device for allowing a user to examine the received data;

4 a processor programmed to link the adapter with any number of wireless
5 networks; and

6 a memory containing a process that associates the adapter to one or more unique
7 networks.

1 17. The adapter of claim 16 further comprising a scanner capable of reading bar code
2 data.

1 18. A configurable access point for allowing a user to match the quality of service
2 provided over a channel in a wireless local area network with the quality of service provided
3 over the packetized wired network connected to the wireless local area network (WLAN) at
4 the access point so as to substantially achieve a uniform quality of service from source to
5 destination node, comprising the steps of

6 specifying the WLAN quality of service parameter at the access point associated with
7 the wireless channel connected to the source/mobile unit;

8 adjusting medium access control (MAC) and physical (PHY) level operation
9 parameters at the access point and at the mobile unit so that the specified quality of service
10 over the wireless link is enabled;

11 determining the quality of service levels available over the wired communications
12 link and the wireless link, if applicable, at the destination;

13 specifying the end-to-end quality of service levels based upon the available levels
14 over the links; and

15 transmitting a message from source to destination with the specified quality of service
16 at each link.

1 19. A configured wireless network, including a plurality of mobile or stationary access
2 points and optionally at least one host computer connected to said access points, and a

3 plurality of remote mobile wireless units, at least some of the units being capable of
4 communicating with at least one of the access points when located within a predetermined
5 range therefrom and being normally associated with and in communication with a single one
6 of such access points, each mobile unit having a unique user address, comprising:

- 7 a computer associated with a network using a software implementation;
- 8 a computer profile stored to correspond to the network association; and
- 9 a computer profile used to connect to the network.

1 20. The network of claim 19 further comprising supporting software integrated into the
2 computer operating system.

1 21. The network of claim 19 further comprising peripherals that create the association
2 between the network and the computer.